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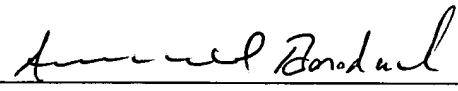
through *at the same time*. Moreover, because the sliding slit in the claimed invention will only allow the protrusions to pass through separately, the claimed invention may remedy a possible shortcoming that may otherwise occur in an apparatus such as that disclosed in Masaya. For example, because the sliding slit in Masaya will allow both protrusions to pass through simultaneously, the apparatus may malfunction when the socket is rotated, if one protrusion slides through the slit and the other does not. (*See* Specification, page 2, lines 14-28) For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 9 should be allowable.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

No fees are believed to be due. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/9/05



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